

**DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
May 11, 2016**

PRESENT: Anne Bisson Kelley Sylvia James Lincoln
 William Bell Ann Kardamis
 Ted O'Brien Louise Silva

ABSENT: Charlotte Carr, Tracy Heger, Barry Burke

Meeting called to order at 10:03 by Anne Bisson

Ted made a motion to accept the April 2016 meeting minutes. Jim seconded. All in favor.



[Director's Report of Board Meeting 05/11/16](#)

[Old Business:](#)

1. FY 16 Executive Office of Elder Affairs (EOEA) Service Incentive Grant: We were notified that we awarded \$9,066.00. I have posted the position of Elder Community Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator and the resumes were due on 5.6.16. Interviews will start soon. Charlene is planning one workshop to be held in June.
2. Senior Tax Work-Off Program: We have received 65 applications for the Senior Tax Work-off Program. All applicants have been approved by the Assessor and Tracy is in the process of meeting with elders to complete their CORIs and determine placement.
3. Media and Messaging Center: We have purchased the television and bracket and they are in-house. We are waiting for the Building Department to build and hang a locking cabinet on the bulletin board.
4. Taunton Opiate and substance use Task Force (TOTF): The monthly meeting was once again well attended (38 individuals). Rep. O'Connell announced that she had added an amendment to the House budget for \$35,000 for the TOTF for data analysis and follow-up. It passed in the House budget and now has to be passed by the Senate and approved by the Governor. Anne is not sure if it will be SSTAR or the "City" that will receive the grant. Laura from SSTAR updated the group on all of the activities. The group is looking at planning community events in the summer and fall.
5. MA Opioid Abuse Prevention Collaborative (MOAPC) Grant: We are toward the end of the first year of funding. Most of the goals have been met. Planning for the strategies for the second year will soon begin.
6. Substance Abuse Prevention Collaborative (SAPC) Grant: The grant is still in the data gathering stage. Plans include compliance checks with the police and sticker shock programs at package stores.
7. Partnership for Success Grant (PFS Grant): The grant is still in the data gathering stage. They are presently conducting focus groups. Anne will be hosting a focus group and asked for any interest from board members to participate. Ted & Louise said they may be able to.
8. Drug Free Communities Grant: We have not yet heard about the date the grant awards will be announced. If awarded, the grant would begin on October 1, 2016.

9. Safe Neighborhood Initiative (SNI): We held the 20th Annual Safe Neighborhood Initiative Breakfast on April 27, 2016. There were 33 in attendance, including District Attorney Tom Quinn, Mayor Hoye, Council President Jeanne Quinn and Councilors Dr. Gerald Croteau and Dan Dermody.

New Business:

1. Somerset Gardens Fire: Charlene worked closely with TEMA, Red Cross, St. Vincent de Paul and the Mayor's Office on the Somerset Gardens Fire. There were 10 condominiums; some owner occupied and some rentals. Charlene and I met with Alyssa Haggerty, Chief of Staff of the Mayor's Office, and informed her of our protocol. Information as to where to forward monetary donations (Taunton Emergency Task Force) and other donations (St. Vincent de Paul) were posted on the city's website and Facebook page as well as the Taunton Daily Gazette. Charlene contacted all families by telephone (either spoke to them or left messages) on the Friday morning after the fire and were informed that if they needed assistance to contact us. Many started 'Go Fund Me' pages and others felt that they would be assisted by family and friends. The Taunton Emergency Task Force received minimal donations so the Task Force added some funds from their emergency account and each family was then mailed a \$100.00 check. There were some negative comments about the protocol on 'Improving Taunton' but we have had to put something in place due to attempts to fraudulently take money and donations
2. Meeting Summary/Anne attended the following meetings:
 - a. Project Homeless Connect: I stopped by Project Homeless Connect at LaSalette on 4.13.16. Charlene attended the full day and worked reception.
 - b. MA Councils on Aging (MCOA): I attended the MCOA meeting in Milford MA on 4.15.16. The first speaker canceled. The second speaker discussed housing issues and MCOA had their business meeting. It appears that the House voted to increase Formula Grants from \$9.00 per elder to \$10.00 per elder. If the Senate and Governor approve this increase we would receive an additional \$10,469.00 for FY17. I have sent thank you notes to our three representatives for supporting the increase. Anne stated that the census being used is from 2010 and we have had an increase in elders since that census.
 - c. Dementia 24/7: I attended this training on 4.21.16 and a second one was held on 4.28.16. Charlene coordinated both trainings.
 - d. Congressman Kennedy: Gail and I met with Congressman Kennedy, Mayor Hoye and other Councils in Aging on 4.25.16. Congressman Kennedy wanted to discuss the opiate issue as it relates to elders.
 - e. TRIAD Planning Committee: We met on 4.26.16 to finalize the Fashion Show, the next meeting and the summer activities.
 - f. Safe Neighborhood Initiative Annual Breakfast: The 20th SNI Breakfast was held on 4.27.16. We had great attendance. District Attorney Thomas Quinn was the guest speaker.
 - g. Community Crisis Intervention Team: Charlene and I attended this meeting on 4.28.16. There was a general meeting followed by a Case Conference.
 - h. Taunton Emergency Task Force: Charlene and I attended the monthly meeting on 5.3.16. Individuals may continue to apply for fuel assistance however it has to be for fuel delivered prior to April 30. Habitat for Humanity introduced their new program to Taunton, A Brush with Kindness.
 - i. Proclamation at City Hall: Tracy and I attended the City Council meeting on 5.3.16 for the reading of the Older Americans Month Proclamation. I would like to thank Charlotte Carr, Barry Burke and William Bell for representing the Board as well as all the others who attended.

- j. New England Resident Services Coordinators (NERSC) Conference in Connecticut: I was on a panel of five who spoke at the NERSC conference in Hartford CT on 5.5.16. The workshop was well attended and well received.
 - k. Mayor Hoyer: Mayor Hoyer held a meeting with some homeless providers on 5.9.16. Discussion centered on homeless at the police station. Nancy Lawson of Catholic Social Services presented on coordinated entry/The Call – 1-800-HOMELESS.
 - l. South East Regional Coordinating Council on Transportation: I attended this meeting on 5.10.16 at SRPEDD. The Agenda included a discussion on consumers attending the meeting and providing first-hand input on unmet transportation needs, the development of transportation brochures by topic, and reviewing the responses from the work and education roundtable.
 - m. Taunton Opiate and Substance Use Task Force: I co-chaired the monthly meeting that was held on 5.10.16. The meeting was well attended (38 individuals).
 - n. TRIAD/Fashion Show planning: I will be meeting on 5.11.16 to finalize the Fashion Show MC duties.
3. Upcoming Scheduled Programs/meetings
- a. TRIAD Fashion Show: 5.12.16
 - b. TRIAD Planning Meeting: 5.17.16
 - c. Prevention and Wellness Network: 5.19.16
 - d. Bristol County Estate Planning Council/TETF: 5.19.16
 - e. Spring Fling: 5.20.16 Anne is concerned with the low response on ticket sales to date.
 - f. Elder Community Crisis Intervention Team: 5.23.16
 - g. United Way Annual Meeting: 5.24.16
 - h. Volunteer Recognition: 5.24.16
 - i. Safe Neighborhood Initiative: 5.25.16
 - j. Bristol Elder Services Advisory Council/Directors' Meetings: 5.26.16
 - k. COA presentation on Opioids: 5.31.16
 - l. Partnership for Success Webinar: 6.1.16
 - m. MA Councils on Aging Annual Meeting: 6.3.16
 - n. South Coast Network to End Homelessness: 6.6.16
 - o. Taunton Emergency Task Force: 6.7.16
 - p. Big Smile 'Happy Together' Event: 6.7.16
 - q. Aging with Dignity Conference: 6.8.16
4. DHS Updates:
- a. Bilingual Case Worker: The position was posted and resumes were due May 6, 2016. Interviews will be scheduled.
 - b. Elder Community Crisis Intervention Team Coordinator: The position was posted and resumes were due May 6, 2016. Interviews will be scheduled.
 - c. Tracy will be attending SHINE Counselor training from 5.9.16 to 7.6.16. She will be attending 12 full day classes.
 - d. I will be off on Friday, May 27, 2016, and Thursday, June 2, 2016.
5. Senior Center Coordinator Monthly Report was read by Anne:

Sr. Center Coordinator's Report of Board Meeting – May 11, 2016

Paul Beukema, AARP local tax aide coordinator, and his volunteers, prepared taxes at the center starting February 1st thru April 13th. They helped 425 seniors.

Senior Tax Workoff applications were given out on April 1st thru April 29th. We had 65 Senior's apply this year. I am in the process of doing Cori's and interviews. The program starts July 1st and ends November 30th.

Spring Fling tickets went on sale on April 11th and we have sold 184 tickets.

On Monday, April 25th Betty Howarth from American Credit Counseling was here and saw 2 Senior's. Anne would like to expand this program.

On Tuesday, May 3rd we had 31 Senior's that showed up at the City Council Meeting for the reading of the Proclamation for Older Americans month.

Upcoming Events

On Tuesday, May 17th Roger Tincknell will be performing "From Elvis to the Beatles" at 1 pm. 1950's and 1960's pop songs. Seniors are asked to contact the office to reserve a seat.

Our "Spring Fling" will be held on Friday, May 20, 2016 at 12:00 noon in the Governor's Ballroom at the Holiday Inn in Taunton. Entertainment this year is DJ Mike Amado. Tickets are \$8.00. This year's meal will be Cape Cod Stuffed Chicken.

On Tuesday, May 24, 2016 at 12:00 noon we will be having our Volunteer recognition at the Fireside Grille in Middleboro. Invitees will have a choice of Grilled Salmon, Roasted Turkey Dinner or Baked Stuffed Shrimp.

MA Bar Association, an Elder Law Education Program entitled, "Taking Control of Your Future: A Legal Checkup, will be here on May 26th at 2 pm. This year's Attorney Ashley Evirs will speak on a variety of topics, including how to protect your home and assets, power of attorney and health care proxies, reverse mortgages, elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation. Seniors are asked to register in advance.

Tuesday, May 31st at 1 pm, Laura Washington, Director of Prevention Services for SSTAR, will be speaking at the Taunton Senior Center on, "The Opioid and Heroin Epidemic: How Elders Can Help." She will discuss the epidemic of prescription drug and opioid/opiate use and misuse, how the brain is affected, proper storage and disposal of prescription medications, how Taunton is addressing the issue, and how elders can help to fight this epidemic.

Big Smile Entertainment will be performing, "Happy Together" Music of the 60's and 70's, on Tuesday, June 7th at 1 pm. Their music will feature the Beatles, the Monkees, Neil Diamond, Motown and more...Get out the Tie-Dye and Dance!!

6. Next meeting: I (Anne) have a full-day conference in Worcester on June 8, 2016. We can either cancel the meeting until September 14, 2016, or Charlene can present the Director's Report.

Jim made a motion to cancel June 8th's meeting and meet again on September 14th, Louise seconded his motion. Anne stated that the only thing that may come up to discuss before then would be the re-instating of the Community Relations position. Ted motioned that if need be anything that comes up could be discussed by phone and the Board will meet again on September 14th. All in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 10:32 a.m.

The next Board Meeting is Wednesday, September 14, 2016.